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Bit By Bit

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Bit by Bit



by Joyce Ogburn (Yale University) and
Roy Heinz (Washington Research Library Consortium)

CAUSE: The Association for the Management of Information Technology in Higher Education

A few columns ago we wrote about EDUCOM, an important player in the education and computing arenas. This column describes CAUSE, another player in this arena, which is probably less well known than EDUCOM.

This year CAUSE is celebrating "twenty years of managing change." Its original focus was administrative computing, but it has since expanded to include computing in all campus activities. CAUSE includes more than 900 member campuses and 2,500 individual representatives. Its mission is "to promote more effective planning, management, and evaluation of computing and information technologies in colleges and universities, and to help individual member representatives develop as professionals in the field."

To accomplish this mission, CAUSE works to identify, discuss, and solve problems of computing, networking, and information technology. It also serves as a facilitator for communication among professionals in higher education concerned with information technology. CAUSE supports these goals by providing information and forums for research and decision-making.

Their publications include *CAUSE/EFFECT*, a quarterly magazine, *CAUSE Information*, its newsletter, and *Manage IT*, a bimonthly newsletter available free to any interested parties. CAUSE also publishes a professional papers series, a monograph series, and their national conference proceedings.

CAUSE maintains an Exchange Library, which collects information on development, use, management, and evaluation of information technology. The library includes over 1,600 documents shared by member

institutions, and articles from CAUSE publications. The documents comprise institutional studies, requests for proposals, survey results, systems descriptions, policies and procedures, bibliographies, and much more. Most of these documents have never been published.

Everyone at a CAUSE member institution may take advantage or their services, or receive discounts on conference fees and publications. The newsletter *Manage IT* contains timely information on developments in computing higher education, including material relevant to libraries.

In 1990 CAUSE joined EDUCOM and ARL in forming the Coalition for Networked Information to promote the creation of electronic vehicles for information resources. Among other initiatives, the Coalition supports the formation of NREN, the National Research and Education Network, in order to address the converging needs of information providers and information users.

This summer CAUSE held an institute for managers of information technology. CAUSE will be holding its 1991 meeting in Anaheim, California, December 2-6. Correspondence to CAUSE can be addressed to 4840 Pearl East Circle, Suite 302E, Boulder CO 80301. Their telephone number is 303-449-4430 and queries also can be transmitted over email at info@cause.colorado.edu. Your institution probably has a representative to CAUSE who can provide you with information as well.

If the reader knows of any other organizations that should be highlighted in this column, please contact the authors.

(NOTE: Quotes are taken from information material provided to the authors by CAUSE.)